

JIM GAY

A Story of a Reformed Card Sharp

By ELEANOR MARSH

A man rode up to a settler's cabin in the far west, threw himself from his horse and asked for something to eat. The settler was not at home, but his wife received the stranger, and her daughter, a child of twelve, looked up at the man with a pair of big black eyes wonderingly.

The mother was evidently troubled at his coming, but children are not aware of the differences in persons, and the daughter, who seldom saw any one except her parents, did not seem ill disposed toward him. On the contrary, his arrival was something out of the common in her life. The man was young, not over twenty-one, and not bad looking, but there was something in his appearance to make the elder woman shudder. She set out some bread and meat for him. It was not very tempting, and he asked if it was the best she could do.

"Mother," said the girl, "you have forgotten that you made pies yesterday."

The mother cast a quick reproving glance at her daughter and, going to a cupboard, took out a pie and placed it on the table before the stranger.

"Wouldn't you like a cup of coffee?" asked the child.

"Reckon I would," replied the man.

The woman frowned, but her back was turned toward the man, and he did not see her face. Besides, his attention was fixed on the child, who was instrumental in bringing forth what there was in the larder. He was fighting his way through the world. His hand was against every man, and every man's hand was against him. He was touched by the only kindness he had received in a long while.

The woman made the stranger a cup of coffee, and, having eaten and drunk, he said:

"I've had a square meal, thanks to you, miss. Now I'm going to have a sleep. In case you hear or see any one coming, little girl, wake me at once."

"If you're sleepy," said the child, "why do you want to be awakened?"

"See here, younker; if some men come along they're probably hunting for me, and the sooner you awaken me the better it will be for me."

"Why are they hunting you?"

"To hang me."

The girl paled, but asked no further questions. The man stretched himself on a bunk fixed to the wall in the living, dining and bedroom in one, while the woman went to the other room, the kitchen, and washed the dishes. The stranger must have been long without sleep, for no sooner had he stretched himself on the bunk than he fell into a deep slumber.

There is something so inoffensive, so powerless, about a sleeper as always to attract sympathy. In this case sleep seemed to relax the man's features so that the animosity against mankind so marked upon it when he was awake disappeared. Twenty-one is the very beginning of manhood, and the younger, his face being in repose, was singularly handsome. Perhaps the girl was old enough to feel drawn to one of the opposite sex. At any rate, she looked upon him sympathetically out of her great black eyes and presently got a blanket and threw it over him. Then, remembering what he had said to her, she went outside and scanned the country roundabout. Far in the distance she saw several men on horseback galloping toward the cabin.

The sleeper was conscious of hearing voices.

"Mother, some men are coming. I'm going to wake him up."

"Do no such thing. He's a desperado, quite likely a horse thief. Let him alone, and they'll get him."

"I won't; they'll hang him."

Then the man felt himself shaken. He started up.

"They're coming," said the girl.

The man sprang to the door, shaded his eyes with his hand against the sun, caught the child in his arms, kissed her, vaulted on to his horse and dashed away.

Not long after his departure a posse rode up to the house.

"Anybody been here?" asked one of them.

"Who are you looking for?" asked the woman.

"Jim Gay, the card sharp. He took \$500 last night from a greenhorn in Silver City."

"Well," replied the woman, "a young fellow has just been here and lit out. Reckon if you go that a-way (pointing) you'll be on his track."

The men rode on, leaving the mother and daughter together, the latter receiving a scolding for protecting the stranger. The father came in later, and when told that Jim Gay, the card sharp, had been there and had been saved from capture by his daughter he gave her another scolding.

"Who is the fellow anyway?" asked his wife.

"I never saw him, but they say he's the slickest man at cards in the territory. He doesn't take much interest in doing a sucker. He rather runs to men who pride themselves on being up to all the dodges in the profession. But he's skinned so many of them that they won't tackle him any more."

"Papa," said the girl, "is it wicked to play cards? You play cards sometimes, don't you?"

No response was made to the question. The father's besetting sin was the gambling table.

During five years following this episode the country round about the settler's cabin was filling up, but with that rough element which seeks new countries. Silver was what attracted the crowd, and many were growing rich from the mines. Scarborough, the settler, was in a position to avail himself of opportunities; but, being subject to a passion for gambling, whenever he got a good thing he gambled it away. In vain his wife pleaded with him to keep away from the gaming tables. It is singular how credulous are those who are afflicted with this passion. And yet is not the passion so strong that they are swept away by it, knowing that the chances are all against them?

Meanwhile the little girl who had saved the card sharp was growing to be a woman. She was a serious character, for she lived in a country where she saw a great deal to indicate to her that the world is not a bed of roses. Then, too, she experienced trouble at home. Her father was a bright man, but they say "death loves a shining mark," and it is hard to find a person with a superior intellect who is not handicapped by some glaring defect. Just as soon as Scarborough made a deal by which he pocketed a handsome profit he would go to a gambling den and lose it, and that, too, to men who were his inferiors.

One evening Scarborough, who had just sold a piece of property for \$3,000, was being relieved of it by a gang of sharpers. While he was playing a young man of clerical cut and wearing a white cravat entered the den and, taking position in the center of the room, began to speak against the gambling passion. The proprietor looked at him as though uncertain whether to stop him or let him proceed. Seeing that no one in the room paid any attention to the speaker, he chose the latter course.

While the young clergyman was inveighing against the sin of gambling a girl of seventeen entered and, moving straight to Scarborough, put her arms about his neck and begged him to come away.

"Mother says that you will lose all the money received for the sale of the property," she pleaded.

"I've lost it already, but I'll get it back again, and more too."

"Oh, father!"

"Just you go home and tell your mother not to worry. I'll come out all right."

When the girl entered the gambling house the clergyman ceased his remarks on the sin of gambling and fixed his eyes upon her intently. He heard what she said to her father, and when he refused to go away with her the clergyman went over to the table where her father was playing and looked over the game.

"Gents," he said presently, "would you mind a man of the church taking a hand in this game?"

There was a burst of laughter and much chaffing of the clergyman at having preached against gambling and then going back on all he had said. But the men at the table, except Scarborough, were all card sharps and thought what a fine thing it would be to fleece a parson. He was admitted to the game with a welcome and, taking \$100 from his wallet, invested the amount in chips.

Never at that board had such hands been held as by the parson. If the best hand against him was a full of nines he held a full of tens. When he dealt the cards it seemed that he was enabled to give the others such hands as would draw them out, and he always topped them. The chips all came his way, and before long he had a pile before him that filled the others with envy. Then he said:

"Gents, no more playin' for chips. Cash these and let the game go on for hard money."

Since he was winner, there could be no objection to this, and the game proceeded on a money basis. When the parson had won more than \$2,500 he suggested a jack pot. The betting was opened with a pair of queens. The parson bet so high that he drove all the rest out except one man. When he was called and showed his hand he was found to hold four kings and an ace. He won \$500 on that hand alone.

Turning to Scarborough, he said:

"How much money did you bring in here?"

"Thirty-two hundred dollars."

The parson counted out the amount, pushed it toward him, deducted the hundred dollars he had begun the game with and left the balance on the table.

"You're a fine parson, you are," said the man who had lost the jackpot.

"Who are you, anyway?"

"I'm Jim Gay, who used to be known in these parts for the slickest card shifter of all professionals."

"One day, when a posse was after me, I got into the cabin where this man and this girl were livin'. The girl was a child then, but against her mother's wishes she warned me of the coming of the committee and enabled me to show a clean pair of heels. Somehow I couldn't get her kindness out of my head, and it worked on me till it reformed me. I concluded to get an education to preach, so that I could spend the rest of my life exposing men who fleece and are fleeced. Do you remember me, little girl?"

"Yes, I do."

The three of them took the regained funds to Scarborough's cabin. It was invested in a silver mine and made the family comfortable. The father never gambled again, and Mabel Scarborough, as Gay's wife, is now assisting him in his crusade against gambling.

THEATER CAN BAN CRITICS

New York Court Upholds Right to Deny Admission to "Roasters."

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 23.—The right of a proprietor of a theater to deny admission to any person whose published criticisms of dramatic performances might injure the business of the theater was upheld unanimously by the court of appeals.

A dramatic critic of a New York newspaper, who had been barred from a theater, appealed from a lower court decision upholding the right of the management in revoking the license conferred by possession of an admission ticket.

AMBASSADOR GERARD HURT

Envoy to Germany Breaks Collar Bone in Skiing Near Munich.

London, Feb. 23.—A dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company says that James W. Gerard, American ambassador to Germany, broke his collar bone when skiing near Munich and also injured his left side.

It is said his injuries are not serious.

Notice of Primary Election.

To the Electors of the City of Owosso: Take notice that the City primary election of the City of Owosso, Michigan, will be held on Monday, the 13th day of March, 1916, for the purpose of nominating two candidates for the office of Commissioner of Public Utilities and Constable of the City of Owosso.

At said election the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be the candidates whose names shall be placed on the ballot for the municipal election to be held on the 3rd day of April, 1916.

The following named places are hereby designated according to a resolution of the Commission of said City as the polling places for said city for said primary election:

First ward—No. 211 North Ball street.

Second ward—Times Printing office, E. Main street.

Third ward—City Hall, E. Main street.

Fourth ward—Voting booth, South Water street.

Fifth ward—No. 1005 West Main street.

The polls of said primary election will be open from seven o'clock in the forenoon until five o'clock in the afternoon.

Dated Feb. 23th, 1916.

ARTHUR H. DUMOND, City Clerk.

Notice of Registration of Electors for Primary Election.

To the Electors of the City of Owosso: Take notice that the several boards of registration for their respective wards in the City of Owosso will meet in the City of Owosso on Saturday, March 11th, 1916, for the purpose of registering the qualified electors of the City of Owosso to vote at the primary election to be held on Monday, March 13th, 1916.

Any elector who is not already registered or who has changed his residence to another ward since last registering will be required to register.

The several boards of registration will meet at the following places:

First ward—No. 211 North Ball street.

Second ward—Times Printing office, E. Main street.

Third ward—City Hall, East Main street.

Fourth ward—Voting Booth, South Water street.

Fifth ward—No. 1005 West Main street.

Said Boards of Registration will remain in session from eight o'clock in the forenoon until eight o'clock in the afternoon.

Dated Feb. 23th, 1916.

ARTHUR H. DUMOND, City Clerk.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION.

Owosso, February 21st, 1916.

Regular meeting of the Commission, Mayor DeYoung presiding.

Members present, DeYoung, Hanscom, Rose.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved as printed.

COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was presented and read on motion of Mr. Hanscom same was received and filed, ayes DeYoung, Hanscom, Roseover:

City Commissioners:

At last Tuesday's Improvement Association meeting an invitation was extended to be present at the meeting to be held tomorrow, Tuesday, February 22.

We have luncheon together at 12 o'clock, standard time.

Respectfully yours,

Owosso Improvement Assn.

W. A. Seemiller, Secy.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICERS

The following reports were presented and ordered printed:

To the Honorable Mayor and Commission of the City of Owosso, Michigan:

Below is a statement of the receipts and disbursements of the City Treasurer's office for the month of January 1916, with a detailed statement of the balances in the various funds February 1, 1916.

Balance on hand January 1, 1916 \$ 49642 56

RECEIPTS

Contingent Fund

Int. on deposits

Justice fees and fines

City Clerk colls

Street fund

City Clerk colls

General street

City Clerk colls

Fire Department

City Clerk colls

Water Works

City Clerk colls

Library

City Clerk colls

Store and Def.

City Clerk colls

Balance February 1, 1916 \$ 48575 63

FUND BALANCES

Contingent

THINK OF IT!

Silk and Net Waists

in Scores of Styles

at \$2.95

Newest Spring Models

Attractive, frilly new waists of Crepe de chine, Taffeta, Habutai silk and net with broad collars, fetching jabots and a profusion of embroidery.

Waist sketched in the upper cut is of washable Crepe de Chine and comes in white, flesh, maize, coral, peach or black. Note the ruffled collar and front and the same effect on the cuffs. Handsome pearl buttons.

Below in sketch is shown a light ecru net waist over flesh chiffon and ribbon. All-over silk embroidered. Collar edged with chiffon and tassel trimmed. Net tie in front ending with tassels.

B. SIEGEL & CO.

CORNER WOODWARD & STATE

NO CONNECTION WITH ANY OTHER STORE

DETROIT, MICH.

MAIL ORDERS FILLED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Roseover moved that the Commission be drawn on the Contingent fund in favor of Elmer Howe for \$10.75 in partial refund of 1915 personal tax assessed in error, which prevailed, ayes DeYoung, Hanscom, Roseover.

NEW BUSINESS

The following resolution was presented and on motion of Mr. Roseover same was adopted, ayes DeYoung, Hanscom, Roseover.

Resolved by the Commission of the City of Owosso that the claims and accounts heretofore attached be approved and the Mayor and Clerk are hereby instructed to issue warrants on the City Treasurer against the various funds for amounts shown:

FROM CONTINGENT FUND

Douglas-Hunt-Dolan Co. 38 00

Owosso Auto Co. 3 75

Fred Smith 2 00

F R Porter 7 21

Times Printing Co. 40 00

F R Porter 14 50

C J McNally 10 00

FROM POLICE DEPARTMENT FUND

Phillips & Taylor 1 00

W H VanSice 1 25

Union Telephone Co. 35 00

Thomas Palmer Co. 4 84

W S Patterson 35 00

G J D. eyes 33 50

C Kinsley 30 00

W S Fuller 33 50

A Gerard 33 50

M Kerby 4 75

FROM GENERAL STREET FUND

Southard & Densmore 1 50

Expense account 35 00

Geo. Freet 40 00

Robt Crane 75 00

D Speck 34 50

E Hesse 34 50

C Giffel 40 00

J Heit 24 50

J Myers 8 75

J M Warren 4 00

J C Collier 4 00

J Rodgers 6 00

R Smith 4 00

A Drexler 4 00

Store & Def. Fund 50 00

F L Hanscom 65 50

E S. Brower 30 00

W H VanSice 3 50

Owosso Store Account 4 00

John Horton 24 27

FROM FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND

Collins Drug Co. 55 00

Hughes & Son 3 00

J B Evans 1 85

Vernon L. Fulmer 1 00

C Craig 30 00

R Crane 25 00

Ed Martin 32 50

C Ockerman 32 50

M Hahn 32 50

O Kinsey 30 00

T Corcoran 30 00

W Howell 25 00

W Houck 25 00

W Schutte 25 00

J Dibeath 32 50

FROM WATER WORKS FUND

Owosso Sugar Co. 20 75

Owosso Gas Light Co. 30 00

H Mueller Mfg Co. 11 71

Standard Oil Co. 10 94

Expense account 10 30

Ann Arbor R R Co. 80 00

P McGlash 32 50

A Morency 27 50

O Henderson 1 80

J Hall 50 00

W J Hall 25 00

M K Dumond 33 33

J Roseover 62 50

C Jackson 35 00

R Calhoun 32 50

A Patterson 32 50

J Freeman 27 50

O Henderson 27 50

R Shattler 27 50

C Lyon 4 50

Owosso Store Account 13 99

FROM HEALTH FUND

W E Ward 25 00

C J McNally 16 00

FROM LIBRARY FUND

Harry E Smith & Co. 40 00

A J McElurg & Co. 16 40

Mrs M McElain 25 00

Frances Jones 50 00

Jan Ely 21 00

FROM SALARY FUND

J DeYoung 62 50

L A Sanderhoff 60 00

A T Wright 62 50

F R Porter 60 00

G P Pringle 63 33

A H Dumond 63 33

F R Porter 63 33

STORE & DEFICIENCY FUND

Fred Welch 24 00

F H Gould 4 15

Geo Freet 20 00

Mr. Roseover moved that the Commission adjourn until March 6, which prevailed, ayes DeYoung, Hanscom, Roseover.